



PORTLAND DISTRICT OFFICE
SMALL BUSINESS WEEK AWARD WINNERS 2005

Besides recognizing the outstanding success of [Paresh Patel of Courtesy Vending, LLC](#), Oregon's Small Business Person of the Year, the following business owners and advocates will also be honored:

OREGON FINANCIAL SERVICES ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR

Debbie Caterson, Regional Account Manager
CIT Small Business Lending
Roseburg, Oregon

Debbie Caterson is a full time employee of CIT Small Business Lending Corporation, a New Jersey based Small Business Lending Corporation licensed by the U. S. Small Business Administration. She is a Regional Account Manager with CIT responsible for originating 7a and 504 loans primarily in Central and Southern Oregon and has worked on loans from all over the state. She has made a substantial contribution to CIT being the number one SBA lender in Oregon for dollar volume over the past three years as well as CIT's national ranking as the top SBA lender in dollar volume for the entire United States.

OREGON WOMEN IN BUSINESS ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR

Christina K. Kodama, Owner
Care-O-Sell
Ontario, Oregon

Chris Kodama is the owner of Care-O-Sell, a first class children's and maternity resale store. She is also a mentor, community advocate, and a certified Child Safety Seat Technician. Chris has realized the importance of mentoring relationships, especially for sole proprietors. For the past four years, she has met with four women business owners on a bi-weekly basis to share marketing ideas, employee challenges, new network marketing strategies, and overall camaraderie. She is also a great mentor of new businesses and has devoted an area of her store to consignment of items from new ventures. Through mentoring and networking, she displays the wares of a candle store that has recently opened, a photographer just launching her business, soaps and lotions from another entrepreneur, tie-dyed items from a woman business owner in Lake Oswego, blankets from two separate women entrepreneurs, and knitted items from yet another female business owner. She is a prime example of how to give back to a community which in turn supports her.

OREGON MINORITY SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR

Rhonda Kay Parsons-Edmiston, DBE Program Manager
Port of Portland
Portland, Oregon

Rhonnda serves as Co-chair for the Minority Business Opportunity Committee (MBOC). In this role, she has facilitated matchmaking sessions as part of a HUD event in the spring of 2004. She also served as Co-chair for the 2004 Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week Awards Luncheon and Minority Business Opportunity Fair. Both events were extremely successful and helped to increase awareness of minority and small businesses in the Portland area. As program manager of the Port's Mentor Protégé program, Rhonnda has done an outstanding job of honoring the traditional approach that has made the program successful while introducing new types of business into the program. Sixteen (16) firms participated in the program to work on their business development skills. Rhonnda manages the programs and ensures that all mentor protégé teams are progressing, are accountable and have the resources needed to meet established goals.

OREGON SMALL BUSINESS EXPORTER OF THE YEAR

Jack L. Joyce, President/CEO

Rogue Ales

Newport, Oregon

Begun in 1988 with one small brewpub, Rogue Ales now operates a brewery and two pubs in Newport, Oregon; a distillery and public house in Portland, Oregon; a brewpub in Eugene, Oregon; a brewpub in Issaquah, Washington; and a pub in San Francisco, California. Rogue Ales currently directly exports its award-winning beers to Japan, Canada, and the United Kingdom. Planning is now underway for exports to India in connection with Iron Chef Masaharu Morimoto's new restaurant there. When requested, Rogue Ales also sells its beers to its United States distributors for export purposes. Rogue-branded merchandise is sold worldwide through its web site, www.rogue.com, its Pubs, and through worldwide free distribution of its newsletter, 100% Pure Rogue.

OREGON HOME-BASED BUSINESS ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR

Katrin McNeil, Owner/Baker

Pacific Sourdough

Waldport, Oregon

Katrin (Katie) McNeil owns Pacific Sourdough, a home-based business that specializes in home-made artisan breads and pastries. Katie has been actively involved with the development of the Farmer's Market in Newport, Oregon as a participant and Board member for the past 11 years. Her participation has resulted in a better venue for home-based businesses to sell and display their products. She was instrumental in moving the market to a new location, obtaining grants to assist with the costs of promotion, and tripling market volume. Katie understands the unique difficulties facing home-based businesses and has worked to improve the conditions for those businesses in Lincoln County. While her own business has grown, she is committed to keeping it a manageable size that can be operated from her home.

In addition, the following have been selected as 2004 SBA Lenders of the Year for Oregon and SW Washington:

Lender of the Year—Bank of America

Certified Development Company of the Year—Evergreen Community Development Association

Co-Minority Lenders of the Year—U.S. Bank and Bank of America

District Director's Award for Excellence—Bank of the Cascades

Posted: May, 2005